In addition to presentation by investigators, the attributes of this volume include pertinent observations and discussion after presented blocks of papers and summaries and recommendations for future laboratory, clinical and field research.

It is interesting to compare the contents of this volume, published in 1962, with a volume on "Schistosomiasis" published (John Bale, Sons and Danielson, Ltd., London), in 1934 by an Egyptian physician, Dr. Ramesis Girges. Even though an interval of approximately thirty years has elapsed between the two publications, schistosomiasis remains a major medical and public health problem with no available satisfactory drug for treatment and great difficulties in diagnosis and control of the infection. Consequently, the present volume is recommended to those who wish to be brought up-to-date about the current status of our knowledge and research with these widespread tropical infections, with the hope that the volume will stimulate and intensify laboratory, clinical and field research with this important group of human diseases. Great gaps in our knowledge about the pathogenesis of the disease were pointed out, but no sections on laboratory diagnosis were included in the symposium. On a world-wide basis, this disease is of great medical importance but, except for schistome dermatitis, which can occur in the U.S.A., the infection is primarily of interest to clinicians in the region of New York City, who seek to diagnose infections in native-born Puerto Ricans who have migrated to this country or in patients who came here from such endemic areas as the Nile River Valley, new endemic areas of the Middle East and the Philippine Islands. Fortunately, the required species of snails, as intermediate hosts of human schistosomes, are lacking in this country to complete the life cycle and effect transmission to our native born population.

QUENTIN M. GEIMAN, Ph.D.

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CLINICAL MANUAL OF ORTHOPEDIC TRACTION TECHNIQUES—Gerhard Schmeisser, Jr., M.D., Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, Baltimore City Hospitals; Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Illustrated by Robert Kern. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1963. 60 pages, $4.50.

Any individual who has been directly or indirectly involved in the establishment and maintenance of a correct orthopedic traction device would upon undertaking to review Dr. Schmeisser's manual be faced with a problem. The problem would be that of controlling his enthusiasm and gratitude to such an extent that an objective appraisal of the manual could be made. The reviewer is confident that a great number of students as well as professional and nonprofessional members of the hospital team will find this book to be of immeasurable value in their day to day work and education.

The first part of the book presents traction in terms of its prospective in orthopedic therapeusis. The value, limitations and complications of traction are also briefly mentioned. A discussion of the importance of exercise and the principles of traction therapy complete the conceptual considerations. Practical topics of equipment, knot-tying and encircling devices are then dealt with.

The remainder of the book concerns itself with the standard forms of traction and their variations. It is divided into skin traction techniques and skeletal traction techniques. In each section there is discussion of the general principles involved in the particular technique. This is followed by detailed explanation of many individual traction set ups. Let us take, as an example, the section on "Dunlop's Traction for Transcondylar and Supracondylar Fractures of the Humerus in Children": the following was presented; a complete diagram of the traction as established, a list of all equipment necessary to establish it, the clinical value and limitations of the device, the precautions that should accompany its employment, useful variations and refinements, and finally a diagram demonstrating post traction immobilization.

The part on skeletal traction provides the same detailed technical information along with basic considerations where they are relevant. This section is highlighted by a sound presentation of the clinical use of Kirschner wires and Steinmann pins. Included in this division is a presentation of important anatomic landmarks for inserting apparatus for skeletal traction. There are some admirable characteristics of this book which are not made evident by a listing of its contents. The illustrations are superb and, themselves, are frequently adequate explanation for one to establish the traction. The subject matter is presented in a clear, concise, stepwise manner. Most problems are anticipated, and instructions for their prevention or resolution provided. The book is spiced with many "pearls," which are most helpful and sometimes, unfortunately, only learned by the less enjoyable process of trial and error. Significant considerations dealing with nursing problems and patient comfort are also given adequate attention.

This book is written as a brief functional manual and does not, by any means, include all traction arrangements. A good bibliography is presented for the reader interested in further study in the topics involved. There is, of course, room for disagreement about the plans of management of some of the fractures; however, these are not presented in a dogmatic fashion.

This book has a great value in its practical effectiveness as a clinical manual; it will also be of considerable worth as a teaching aid. The reviewer is impressed with its potential as a tool of communication between doctors, nurses and central supply personnel. By referring to the numbered illustrations, with their lists of required equipment, when ordering traction apparatus all persons involved could know precisely what is requested. This would alleviate the all too familiar problem of not having the proper materials for the desired traction. Because of its practical effectiveness, significant education usefulness, this book is a distinct contribution to clinical orthopedics.

AUGUST WHITE, M.D.

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CLINICAL DISORDERS OF FLUID AND ELECTROLYTE METABOLISM—Edited by Morton H. Maxwell, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California (Los Angeles) School of Medicine; Attending Specialist in Medicine, Veterans Administration Center, Los Angeles; and Charles R. Kleeman, M.D., Chief of Medicine, Mount Sinai Hospital; Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California (Los Angeles) School of Medicine. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y., 1962. 512 pages, $16.00.

The growing importance of disorders in electrolyte metabolism in all branches of clinical medicine has led to an increasing number of texts on this subject. Two multiauthored volumes have now appeared which in itself attests to the growing complexity of this field. One of these is Clinical Disorders of Fluid and Electrolyte Metabolism edited by M. H. Maxwell and C. R. Kleeman. The purpose of this work, as stated by the editors, is to provide "a practical working knowledge . . . for every practicing physician." The topics covered, in line with the aim of achieving general usefulness, are: (1) basic physiological principles, (2) renal disorders (acute and chronic), (3) endocrine mediated disorders, (4) edematous states, and (5) disorders seen in obstetrical and pediatric practices. Although a wide range

of subjects is covered, the absence of chapters on the pathogenesis and treatment of dehydration and on the electrolyte disturbances in surgical patients limits its over-all value. Despite this shortcoming and the unevenness in style and depth of treatment of the individual topics (inevitable in multi-authored texts), this is an important contribution to teaching in this area. The authors are all respected authorities in their field, the documentation is fairly complete, and considerable effort has been made to relate the physiological findings to the most prominent problems faced by clinicians. Without doubt, this text will be used widely, and for the most part successfully, by practicing physicians as well as by medical students for the next two or three years at least. All texts on electrolyte disorders have a short half-life, owing to the high rate of publication of new research findings. It is to be hoped that the authors will expand and periodically modernize this work, since it is of considerable value for teaching at the pre-doctoral as well as the post-doctoral level.

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MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY—Matthew J. Lynch, M.D. (N.U.I.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.C.A.P., Pathologist, The General Hospital, The Sudbury Memorial Hospital, The Sudbury-Algoma Sanatorium, Sudbury, Ontario; Consultant Pathologist to the International Nickel Company of Canada; Regional Pathologist for District of Sudbury, Ontario, Department of Justice; Stanley S. Raphael, M.B., B.S., (Lond.), Pathologist, The Sudbury Memorial Hospital, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada; Leslie D. Mellor, L.C.S.L.T., F.I.M.L.T., Member, Canadian Society for Clinical Chemistry, Chief Technologist, and Specialist Technologist in Biochemistry, The General Hospital, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada; Peter D. Spare, F.I.M.L.T., Member, Canadian Society for Clinical Chemistry, Chief Technologist, and Specialist Technologist in Biochemistry, Sudbury Memorial Hospital; Peter Hills, L.C.S.L.T., F.R.M.S., Senior Technologist, and Specialist Technologist in Bacteriology and Histology, The General Hospital, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada; and Martin J. H. Inwood, L.C.S.L.T., F.I.M.L.T., Senior Technologist, and Specialist Technologist in Hematology and Blood Bank, The General Hospital, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada; Member, American Association of Blood Banks. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1963. 735 pages, $12.00.

The authors of this book indicate in the preface that their aim has been to give workers in their field a book that is up to date and covers the vast bulk of investigative demands encountered in the average general hospital, yet one which outlines not only the "how" but also the "why" of laboratory work. In the opinion of this reviewer, they have accomplished this assignment exceedingly well. The book is divided into four sections. Section One begins with a concise but adequate review of the basic principles of laboratory work and of general and analytical chemistry. There follow chapters on tests of kidney function including routine urinalyses as well as special tests performed for chemical constituents which may appear in the urine. The various chemical tests applicable to studies of the gastrointestinal tract, liver and biliary systems are next described. This section is concluded with descriptions of a number of important biochemical tests commonly used in diagnosis, as well as the special studies applicable to investigation of endocrine functions.

Section Two is devoted to hematology including not only morphological studies but also the parasites which may be detected in the blood, blood coagulation and disorders of hemostasis, blood grouping, and blood bank methods. Section Three covers the field of diagnostic microbiology, with limited attention to serological tests, antibiotic sensitivity procedures, parasitology and mycology. The final Section, Four, deals with histologic techniques including preparation of tissues, staining for special purposes, and cytologic diagnosis.

Each chapter is supplied with a useful and up to date list of references for further reading. This preserves the quick reference feature of a laboratory text to be consulted for a concise treatment of the problem at hand. The book is printed in double column format by an offset process which is most satisfactory and because of the somewhat larger than usual type, easily read. Because of its good coverage of the field of laboratory investigation and its content of modern and reliable procedures, this book is recommended as a reference source for any hospital laboratory.

HAROLD A. HARPER, Ph.D.

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COUNSELING IN MEDICAL GENETICS—Second Edition—Sheldon C. Reed, Ph.D., Director, Dight Institute for Human Genetics, The University of Minnesota. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1963. 278 pages, $5.50.

This book of modest size, now in its second edition, is designed to help the obstetrician, the pediatrician, the internist, and above all the family physician meet problems of family planning that may be placed before him. For this, he should have some familiarity with genetics, a field in which great advances have been made in the last few years, particularly in chromosome analysis, and the recognition of the chemical basis of several inborn errors of metabolism. The number of conditions in which heredity plays a major part is surprisingly large—the author lists over 300. Patients frequently seek counsel from the physician as to the chances of some anomaly or other condition which may have occurred in an ancestor or collateral relative appearing in their future offspring, and Reed approaches such problems in an orderly way, grouping them in some 28 categories, and giving specific examples of advice given. There is also an interesting discussion of disputed paternity.

The author, Sheldon C. Reed, is Director of the Dight Institute for Human Genetics of the University of Minnesota. The need for such organizations is well shown by the fact that the eight years since the first edition was published the number of such American institutes for genetic counseling has increased from 13 to 28.

The book is well written, with clear expositions of the basic material. It should be extremely useful to the physician who is not expert in the field but who wishes at least to guide his patients in the preliminary steps toward solving their problems.

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PREVENTIVE PEDIATRICS—Child Health and Development—Paul A. Harper, Professor of Maternal and Child Health, The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland. Appleton-Century-Crofts (Division of Meredith Publishing Company), 34 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y., 1962. 798 pages, $14.95.

Dr. Harper has written a comprehensive textbook which might equally well bear the title "Growth, Development and Public Health Care of Children." The reviewer knows of no other text which, in one volume, covers as thoroughly and authoritatively the fields of normal growth and development, nutritional requirements, well baby and well child care, mental retardation and other handicaps and public programs for the well and handicapped child. The first chapter of 76 pages entitled "Predictable Problems of Growth and Behavior" deals almost entirely with common behavior problems and is excellent.

Throughout the book there are comprehensive and up-to-date references. The book is recommended for use by pediatricians, public health personnel and all others engaged in health services for children.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.